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generally were a temptation and a danger, is to betray an ignorance of his subject so colossal as to merit nothing short of contempt.

F. D. McRAE.

ST. PAUL, MINN.

MR. HENDRICK'S REPLY

SIR,—The mechanism of the mind is a curious thing, very complex, and the wonder is that we mortals can agree as well as we do. We seem to be constructed with a view to fighting each other, and if it were not for the gift of sympathy the world would be a sorrier place than it is even in these days.

I agree with Mr. McRae in regard to my ignorance and incompetence, and I suppose he is right in calling me flippant. I can not take orthodoxy seriously. I can not focus it in my mind as that arrangement of all the facts which is the truth. Call it bedevilment if you will, my vision of orthodoxy is always as of something grotesque.

Now the pages of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW are not long enough to permit contributors of Letters to the Editor to quote the Scriptures to prove their contentions, because the sayings of Holy Writ are many and divers. But on re-reading my essay I think it possible to support nearly every statement by texts,—which would neither prove anything nor make it perfect.

Indeed, I should be the last to call it perfect. Its faults, however, appear to me to be more clearly pointed out by a clergyman who addressed me from another State than by Mr. McRae. He said that, on the whole, he agreed with me, but thought I missed one quality of Paul, and that my failure to mention it colored my whole essay to its hurt. This was that Paul was a mystic. I think he is right, and that I am at fault in this respect. But mysticism seems to be one of my blind spots, and here again Mr. McRae is right in regard to my incompetence. The same gentleman also says that I am not quite fair to Paul. This, too, may be just criticism. I have heard Paul quoted in defense of so much meanness in this world that I may be, in a measure, angry at the thought of him. And anger blinds. It is idle to put confidence in what anyone of us says in his wrath. Anger is the mother of error.

In a personal letter which Mr. McRae was good enough to send me he tells me that "One of the best established laws of psychology is that we select our beliefs. One can very easily make himself believe or disbelieve a thing if he wants to; the wish is father to the thought." This statement is singularly free from heresy except perhaps for a touch of Pelagianism. Many an institution of orthodoxy has been built upon it, including the Holy Inquisition. I once made an earnest plea for the doctrine that we have within us the capacity to select our own ideals, and despite any seeming contradiction I still hold to it. But as for this ability to believe or disbelieve in concrete things at will, I am afraid the rule is not universal. Some of us are so organized that we can not bring ourselves to believe what, according to the testimony of all of our faculties, offends against the truth.

My postulate is that the Christology of Jesus and the Christology of Paul are not the same, and that they are in sore conflict. There are those of us who are not so gifted with the faculty of volitional belief that they can hold Paul in reverence. Why then may we not look beyond Paul to the

simpler doctrine of Jesus? The light of its loveliness may encourage us to turn our faces to the morning and to hope for a brighter day.

ELLWOOD HENDRICK.

NEW YORK CITY.

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MAKE US GREAT

SIR,—It must rejoice the heart of every real lover of peace to read Henry Rutgers Marshall's article in the February number of *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*, "War and Human Nature." I wish this article could be printed in pamphlet form and placed on the library table of every man who reads and thinks throughout these United States. To my mind one of the things that makes *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW* such a great magazine is the variety of subjects discussed. It is a magazine for the man who loves to read and think. Some of these days I hope we may be favored with an article in this great magazine from the pen of some able man on the subject: "Unmistakable Signs of the Coming Kingdom of Righteousness and Peace." Only some man with prophetic vision can see these "signs" amid the darkness and confusion of these days of war; but the "kingdom is coming."

JESSE F. BENTON.

GARY, W. VA.

A WELCOME TRIBUTE

SIR,—Your letter addressed to my father, inquiring about a renewal of his subscription to *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*, has been read. It may be of interest to you to know that until within a few weeks of his death last year, at almost 92 years of age, *THE REVIEW* interested him greatly. He looked forward to each number as long as he was able to read, and after that he asked for articles to be read to him. He was a man who passed a lifetime of unusual physical and mental activity as a Philadelphia merchant and later as a Chester County farmer, and he considered that *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW* furnished him with the best expressions of opinion on world—and national—affairs, both political and literary.

We, members of his family, thank you for the information and pleasure your publication gave him for many years.

GERTRUDE RHODES.

WESTTOWN, PA.

"JUDICIAL AND HELPFUL"

SIR,—Permit me, as a Canadian, to express my appreciation of your deft, sympathetic, judicial, and helpful interpretation of the English attitude in your article, "England Today," in the January issue. You can do more helpful work for public enlightenment in America by just such a balanced treatment of international problems than could be accomplished by any jingoistic methods. You have caught to nicety the underlying spirit of the struggle as it is seen in the somewhat phlegmatic English nature;